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Board of County Commissioners
Lewis & Clark County Washington

Evergreen Forest County Group

OCT 24 2016

October 5, 2016

EJF _____ PWS _____ GS _____
☐ FYI ☐ Action Required ☐ Other

Dear Commissioners & Council Members:

Here is our annual report on our Washington, D.C. advocacy efforts on behalf of Washington State's forest counties. We are fortunate to have Bob Weidner representing our interests in the National Capital City. Under our direction, Bob has worked tirelessly without fanfare on these key issues:

1. Active National Forest Management and Forest Service Fire Budget Reform;
2. Secure Rural Schools (SRS) reauthorization;
3. PILT reauthorization and appropriations;
4. "Coordination" advocacy to require federal agencies to engage in government to government "coordination" & not relegate counties to mere NGO status;
5. RS 2477 Historic Rights of Way legislation to eliminate need to "quiet title" every 2477 right of way—tremendous cost savings to counties;
6. GAO Audit of public land receipts;
7. Sharing receipts with counties from Renewable Energy development.
8. Protecting the economic interests of Columbia River counties
9. Protecting economic interests of counties in and around the Puget Sound.


As you know, the Congress has failed to pass a budget resolution or any of its 12 appropriations bills during this session. Moreover, due to its unilateral discarding of "earmarking," Congress has surrendered much of its Constitutional power over the purse to the Executive Branch.

Thus, our counties rely heavily on Bob Weidner's expertise on the inner-workings of government due to his 34 years of experience working on Capitol Hill. He has been directly involved in creating the overall strategies for counties to protect their interests and for our allies in Congress to enact our agenda. His work with the Congress has been a key factor in maintaining our timber receipts and SRS and PILT payments. Counties continue to benefit mightily from his work.

As co-Chairs of Evergreen Forest County Group for the past four years, we have come to rely on Bob for critical information, strategy and guidance in our efforts to protect our economic resources on all government owned lands. We encourage ALL counties to continue to support Bob's efforts in Washington, D.C. He remains a tremendous resource, not to mention an insurance policy for us all.

Sincerely,


Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County


Doug England, Chelan County

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
ON BEHALF OF LEWIS COUNTY, A MEMBER
OF THE EVERGREEN FOREST COUNTY GROUP
A Rural Public Lands County Council Affiliate
2017**

I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Agreement is by and between Robert K. Weidner, hereinafter "Weidner", with offices in the Washington, D.C. area and Lewis County, hereinafter "the County".

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

Pursuant to the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement, Weidner will serve as Washington, D.C. government relation's advisor to Lewis County and other counties of the Evergreen Forest County Group hereinafter "Evergreen". In this role, Weidner will report to and receive guidance from Evergreen Group Members & Commissioners of participating counties including:

- A. Monitoring and information gathering with the Administration and Congress with respect to matters in which the counties may have interest. Specifically, Weidner will closely monitor and provide information on matters affecting public lands within member counties.
- B. Lobbying Congress and departments of the executive Branch of the government including the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture with respect to matters, which affect member counties. This will involve arranging meetings for officials of the member counties with officials of these departments as necessary; the preparation of testimony and briefing papers; assisting in devising strategy; the implementation of that strategy with respect to House and Senate Committees; and liaison work with key committee members of the House and Senate Committees as well as Committee staff.
- C. In addition to those activities described in "B" above, this will include working with members and staffs of relevant Congressional Committees on an on-going basis on behalf of member counties.

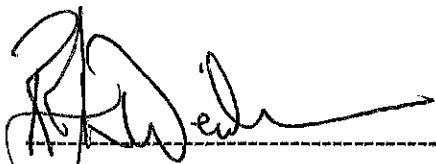
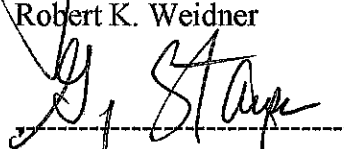
- D. Providing regular briefings to the Evergreen Executive Committee and member counties following the guidelines set forth by the Executive Committee.
- E. Provide periodic updates on issues and activities, which affect Evergreen member counties.

III. DURATION

This Memorandum of Agreement shall remain in effect from January 1, 2017 until December 31, 2017. However either party may cancel this contract on sixty days notice without cause.

IV. FEES

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO Robert K. Weidner. In consideration of the above-referenced services to be performed by Weidner, the County agrees to pay Weidner \$12,500.00 in January of 2017. Should this contract be terminated early, pursuant to the provision of III, above, and then compensation for Weidner's services shall be computed based upon the number of hours actually expended by Weidner multiplied by an hourly rate of \$250.00 per hour. Provided, however, that in no event shall the fees incurred exceed the total amount stated above unless agreed to by the two parties.

	9.30.16
Robert K. Weidner	Date
	10/21/16
On behalf of Lewis County	Date